



Coronavirus lockdown easing: what does it mean for motorists...?

Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled new guidelines to ease the coronavirus lockdown on 11 May. He stated that people who can't work from home will be allowed to go back to work on Wednesday 13 May, provided they are able to do so without breaking social distancing guidelines.

This is being seen by some people as the green light to reopen car dealerships this week, alongside other types of business, such as garden centres, which are definitely being allowed to open.

The Government had discussions with car dealer representatives last week with a view to them being among the first batch of businesses that are able to reopen. While we may get confirmation of this after the Government's 50-page guidance document is published later today, at present many dealers are saying that showrooms will remain closed for now.

How can you refuel your car safely?

People are being encouraged to avoid public transport to get to work and to either drive, cycle or walk where possible. Those in England are also permitted to leave home more than once a day for exercise and drive to destinations other than shops for essential supplies.

This means we may all need to visit fuel stations again. To stay safe while refuelling, always wear gloves when handling fuel pumps and use contactless payment methods.

Can you get your car serviced?

Garages were deemed essential businesses and were not told to shut in March when the UK's coronavirus lockdown started, but many of them decided to close anyway to protect the public and their staff, while those that did stay open prioritised key workers.

However, now that restrictions on people going to work are being eased slightly, we expect many of the garages and dealer service departments that did close to introduce measures so that they can get back to work.

These changes are likely to include contactless car and key drop off procedures, strict car cleaning and interior protection measures to prevent the spread of the virus, and telephone consultations and payments so there is no need for face-to-face contact.

This is a difficult time for everybody, and as we are open supporting critical services to stay on the road. We are here for everyone – Stay Safe.

The Fleetline Team

